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• ROGER BARTON AND HIS KINSMEN

by

Adolph Law Voge

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1920

• ROGER BARTON AND HIS KINSMEN

by

Adolph Law Voge

Although the name of Barton is found prominently in Europe today in Ireland and France, English authorities claim it to be a pure anglo-saxon word derived from "bere" which means barley and "tun" signifying an enclosure. Later the word Barton actually came into general use as a farm-enclosure surrounded by the house, equivalent to the French "ferme". As Barton is pure anglo-saxon, it was certainly applied before the invasions of Danes and of William the Conqueror. It probably came into use soon after the Saxon arrivals or about 500 A.D. The family name Barton, as so often is the case, was derived from the agricultural term - quite similarly to the family name: Farmer.

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In the Battle Abbey Roll of Knights who crossed from France with William the Conqueror (1066 A.D.) the name Barton does not occur, but there are near equivalents: Bertin and Bertine (the first pronounced Bartang) which may prove to be ancestors of some Barton and Bertine families.

Some have professed to have found the name in Domesday Book, a survey made in 1086 A.D. of the land-holders in England, largely his knights, by William the Conqueror. I have carefully studied this document both in lithographic replica of the original old Norman and in modern English transcription and find nothing closer than the name "Bertie", which is a distinctly different family. The "Roger Barton, Knight of Bath" mentioned in several early English works is really Roger Bertie as proven by a rare pamphlet giving names of all those knighted in the reign of Charles 1st., in New York Public Library history division. Others have professed to find "Bertone" in the Domesday Book. I could not. In any case, it would suggest an early Saxon land-holder, not a Norman knight.

Before 1200 A.D. the family name Barton appears in land-records in England as

Recd Aug 15-1978

Bartuna and Bertuna, it has been stated; in 1202 as Bareton; in 1238 Barthon.

The recording of pedigrees in England was associated with families bearing coats-of-arms.

The earliest pedigree of a Barton family which I have found is that of Gilbert de Nottun de Barton, the first Barton of Barton to employ a coat-of-arms, or at least to have it recorded. He lived about 1250 A.D. (See Visitations of Lancashire, pages 78 - 80, of Vol.98 of the Publications of the Chetham Society.) His arms were three boars' heads found in heraldic compilations of 1450 and 1567. In these early days of heraldry resort was frequently made to punning on the family name and this was evidently the case with the Barton Boars' Heads arms - pronouncing the name: Boarton.

Another early pedigree of a Barton family, doubtless related to that of Gilbert, starts with Dominus John de Barton born about 1270 - living 1328, of Freton or Fryton, Lancashire. His coat of arms was 3 golden rings, or in Heraldry: "trois anulots d'or". He had a grandson, Rogerus Barton, showing how early (before 1400) the given name, Roger, occurs in the Barton family.

In 1380 a John de Barton family was prominent in Surrey.

In 1416 a Harry Barton was Lord Mayor of London. His arms were, 1 golden ring on an ermined shield.

Another John Barton, born about 1400, founded the Middleton, Lancaster Co., Bartons.

About 1450 the arms of "Rychard of Barton of Lancasterchyre" were 3 golden rings - indicating relationship of the two families as Richard's father bore 3 boars' heads as arms.

Raufe (or Ralph) Barton of Holme, Lancaster, born about 1420, was the ancestor of the Smithells Bartons. Arms: 3 stags' heads.

Roger Barton, born about 1490, was the founder of the Diddleston Bartons.

* * *

Actually the writer has done relatively little research on the English Bartons and it cannot be performed with any degree of thoroughness outside of England. However, some attention has been given to the probable ancestry of Roger Barton. The chief sources for this have been the extensive series of volumes of Parish Registers and Visitations published by the Harleian Society, the Chotham Society, the Parish Register Society, etc. The Parish Register records are dates of birth, marriage and death, with parentage often given. The Visitations are pedigrees undertaken to replace Parish registers that had been destroyed in wars. They are very valuable genealogically but very inaccurate concerning dates and even ancestry.

From a search of all of the principal published Visitations of all of the Counties of England it was determined that the name of Roger Barton occurs in but those of Yorkshire and Shropshire (or Salop). These were mostly made in the century between 1550 and 1650.

Yet on searching the parish registers of Yorkshire, a set of 76 volumes and covering dates from ca. 1580 to 1700, the name of Roger Barton does not appear once.

On studying the parish registers of the Shire of Lancaster, adjoining York to the west, we find for similar range of dates, the name of Roger Barton occurring no less than 39 times. This signifies that the Rogers in the Yorkshire pedigrees had actually lived in Lancashire.

In the parish registers of Shropshire in all the 40 or more volumes, it occurs but once.

In the parish registers of Lancashire, in all of the 60 and more volumes, the name of Barton occurs freely, i.e. more than 10 times, only in ten of them, and of these the name Roger Barton occurs in six volumes:

Vol. 2 Burnley, 2 times	Vol. 13 Ormskirk, <u>23</u> times
Vol. 4 Wigan 2 "	Vol. 16 Padham 5 times
Vol. 5 Walton 1 "	Vol. 23 Upholland 10 "

Gilbert Barton occurs only in Vols. 4, 13 and 23 and has not been met with elsewhere in all parish registers and visitations searched. (Gilbert Barton in a Roger line has occurred early several times in Orange and Putnam Cos.) The items for all of these Rogers and Gilberts have been copied; the most interesting one is perhaps this under Walton (only 6 miles north of Liverpool) -

"Roger, Alice and Elizabeth, children of Thomas Barton,
bapt. (respectively) 25, 18, and 15 Feb. 1602/3".
(Their year ended in March, so really 1603.)

(Strangely enough the Walton volume has all of the Barton entries checked in pencil by some earlier New York searcher. No other volume has such checks against Barton names.)

As Roger Barton, the Immigrant, rented land in 1642 in Manhattan when, it must be assumed he was of age, he was probably born before 1621. Four of the above Rogers satisfy this condition. It is fairly safe to conclude therefore that Roger Barton, the Immigrant, is of a Lancashire family. If so, his ancestors were there during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1485) and carried the red rose.

Here in Lancashire is opportunity for very interesting research.

One young Barton genealogist, a decade ago, asserted that he had found a tradition that Roger had come via Barbadoes to Manhattan and that he had proven him to be son of a ship captain, Edward, plying between England and Barbadoes. He refused to cite his authorities and I think that they were imaginary. There was, however, such a Captain Edward Barton in Barbadoes and several early Thomas Bartons, one dying in 1638 and another in 1658. No Roger Barton is mentioned in any early record of Barbadoes now extant.

There is a tradition I have met in several Barton families concerning three brothers coming to America. This tradition is often heard in other families and is generally wrong, but in the case of the Bartons it seems to be somewhat supported by fact. One form says one brother went to Oxford, Mass., one to Philadelphia, and one to Dutchess Co. Another that three brothers came to New York, one remained,

one went to New England and one went South.

Actually, about 1642, Thomas Barton appears in southern New Jersey (Burlington Co.) Rufus Barton is of Rhode Island and Roger is of New York. More conclusive, Roger's son Enoch dies in South Jersey near where Thomas Barton's family lived.

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^{RUFUS}
Roger Barton reached Manhattan Island during or before 1642 - for in August of that year he leased from Rev. Everardus Bogardus 62 acres of farm-land on the North River. This was part of the Anneke Jans or, later, Trinity Church property.

It is interesting to consider what brought this young Englishman to this Dutch Settlement, instead of to Virginia or New England. This was during the reign of Charles 1st of England. With the accession of James 1st in 1625 the strife among Catholic, Episcopal and Puritan (Presbyterian) had become intensified. From 1630 - 1640 the Puritans especially were persecuted and many fled to New England. From 1640 to 1660 leading up to and during the Oliver Cromwell government, it was the Episcopalians and Royalists who were persecuted. We know from later facts that Roger was Episcopalian in faith - at least all of his sons were. (Curiously, though, he used Puritan rather than Anglican names for his sons: Elijah, Elisha, Joseph, Enoch, Calob. His wife must have been of Puritan stock.) These Anglicans also now fled from England and took refuge on the Continent, many in Holland. The Royalist-Catholics, or Cavaliers, made Maryland their permanent refuge, but the Episcopalians generally felt they must return and die in England.

The First Bishop's War (1639) under Charles 1st resulted from a desire to suppress the Anglican prayer-book, by Charles. He decided to conquer Scotland and advanced through Yorkshire, calling on the aid of the nobles of that and neighboring shire, who tried to avoid him. He met a Scottish Army and neither side ventured attack.

In 1640, the Second Bishop's War occurred, the Scotch occupying Northumberland. Holland at this moment was the favorite place for voluntary exile of the Anglicans.

Roger Barton could readily have been one of them.

Already in 1620 the merchantmen of Holland had outstripped the ships of England. They were much larger, better manned and better protected, by the Dutch navy.

The conclusion is that Roger Barton, an Anglican in exile in Holland, decided to try his fortune in America and naturally sailed on a Dutch ship to New Amsterdam. As none of the children of Roger had Dutch names, it is certain that he neither married a Dutch woman nor had Dutch ancestry. However, as Roger remained in Manhattan, or at least did not go on to the Virginia Colony, he evidently knew the Dutch language well, which indicates a sojourn previously of considerable duration in Holland.

In 1642-6 occurred in England the great religious Civil War that culminated in 1649 in Oliver Cromwell becoming practically Dictator.

Other than this one entry of 1642 of Roger Barton's rental of land, there is no record of his name again in New York City or Colony records for over twenty years! Not until 1664. The conclusion is natural that he left the country, probably returning temporarily to England - perhaps more ready to fight against Cromwell and the Puritans than to risk loss of an estate earlier in fighting Charles 1st.

By 1660 in England, Cromwell was dead. Parliament was restored with Charles 2nd, and in 1661 the Anglican Church was restored. In 1661-5, The Clarendon Code came into force in England whereby the rule of land-owners replaced that of puritan, soldier, bishop and king.

In 1665-7, occurred the Dutch War and Manhattan was acquired by England.

Brookhaven or Setauket, Long Island, was settled in 1655 and joined Connecticut Colony in 1661. In 1664 old style (1665 new style) first appears the name of "Rog. Bartones" as Recorder on several copies of documents from the Court of Connecticut, in these Brookhaven records. He was probably the earliest town-clerk of

Brookhaven. His writing and spelling were both as bad as that of most of the other old clerks of the district. He, with three others, is spoken of as "Mr.", an appellation used then only for men above the average in the social scale.

In March, 1665, he was elected with one other to represent Brookhaven at a convention held at Hempstead at the call of Gov. Nicholls of New York Colony when the East, West and North Ridings of New Yorkshire were established and the Duke's Laws put into effect.

In April, 1665, he was appointed one of the Deputies from Brookhaven to the General Court.

In May, 1665, he is mentioned at a General Assembly held at Hartford, by the Connecticut Colony, which claimed Long Island through a Royal Charter but newly received. At this meeting he was accepted as a Freeman of the Connecticut Colony.

At a Court held in October, 1665, in New York City, the defendant, accused of selling beer to the Indians, said, "Mr. Barton" had given his verbal consent thereto.

In May, 1666, orders are issued by Gov. Nicholls for the arrest and expulsion of Roger Barton and Robert Bloomer from Brookhaven. This was apparently not accomplished for the Constable attempting to make the arrest, with some persons assisting him, "were set upon in a tumultuous and riotous manner, assaulted and hindered from the performance thereof by men ill-affected to the government". Barton and Bloomer had probably sided with Connecticut and against New York concerning the claim the two colonies made to Long Island. In June the order is issued for these men to deliver themselves up in New York City by July. Three such orders appeared in June. Then these men were outlawed by Nicholls from the Brookhaven Colony, and their estates confiscated.

Barton and Bloomer evidently escaped from Brookhaven, probably to Connecticut Colony, leaving their families temporarily behind, for there is a record in 1666 that the Constable sold some of their household goods to pay "the charge of the Commissioners".

In 1669, by a decree of a New York Court of Sessions held at Southold, these facts are again stated and the Governor, Council and Court now levied a fine of 50 L. through the sale of the estates, any residue to be returned for the relief of these families.

The Sheriff sold Bloomer's property for 20 L. and gave 12 L. to his wife, Rachel, but nothing is said in the records of what was done with Roger Barton's land in Brookhaven.

The name of Barton does not appear again in the Brookhaven records during the next century.

Roger Barton probably continued to be a Freeman of Connecticut Colony, for about 1670 he secures land at Rye Neck, then under Connecticut jurisdiction, and to which he has given the name Barton's Neck - a tract about one mile long - later partly known as Merritt's Point.

Apparently Barton sold this to Rye about 1678 when the Barton Neck lands were subdivided, for in that year Roger has funds and purchases from John Archer (or Arcer) Proprietor of the Manor of Fordham, 102 acres of land lying near Brunxes River, commonly called the Great Plain, within the bounds of the Manor of Fordham. The land is "assigned to Roger Barton for various causes and more especially valuable considerations of money". This deed was not recorded until 1700.

In 1678 Roger is recorded as witnessing sale of land of William Davenport of Yonkers.

In 1682 Roger Barton "At Westchester, New Yorkshire" witnesses sale of "Jades" (horses).

In July, 1682, the town of Westchester gave to Roger Barton, "yeoman", "within the bounds of the aforesaid town, upon the west side of Brunxes River, one parcel of land where his now dwelling-house stands".

Again in Westchester town records under date of November, 1684, two houses to be built - one "between Roger Barton and the line of Col. Lewis Morris's at the

side of the Brook by the South Pond".

In 1686 Roger is appointed by the Town Council of Westchester as one of a Committee of three to prevent unauthorized cutting of timber on the town lands west of Brunxes River. All of which indicates pretty clearly the location of Roger Barton's home as in Fordham.

In June, 1688, Roger makes his will, beginning, "I, Roger Barton, Sr., living in the Town of Westchester, yeoman".

He mentions his wife, Mary, as living, his sons Elisha, Elijah and Roger as being of age, and his minor sons, Noah, Enoch and Joseph.

He acknowledged this before the Register as his own will, 24 July 1688.

On the 16th of July, 1688, there occurred a church riot which probably cost Roger Barton his life, at the houses, in Fordham, "near the Harlem River" occupied by himself and his son Elijah.

The cause of this attack was a quarrel between the Dutch Church of Manhattan and the Anglican Church of Westchester Town. John Archer had owned the church-land but mortgaged it to Steenwyck of New York, who ultimately secured full possession of Archer's Manor of Fordham and deeded it to the Dutch Church of Manhattan. The Dutch claim to the church met with great opposition from the town of Westchester. Roger Barton and his son, Elijah, had been engaged to keep possession on behalf of the town of Westchester, dwelling in the house that formerly Aert Pietersen had dwelt in.

On the day in question, led by Nicholas Bayard, some dozen armed men rode out from Manhattan and demanded admittance - whether to house or church is indefinite in the records. This being refused they burst in the door and roughly handled and drove off Roger and his son. In the testimony before a Justice taken next day, Roger is stated to be "about 60" and Elijah "about 20".

On the 6th of August the Sheriff was ordered to put the Bartons in possession again.

Probably Roger Barton, Sr. died this year, although no definite probate of his will has been found.

Of his sons, the oldest, Elisha, early went to Rockland Co., where he bought land in the Kakiat. Elijah probably went to Jamaica or Hempstead, L.I. Roger, Jr. remained in Westchester Co. and is the ancestor of most of the Westchester Co. Bartons. Noah, when well along in life sold all of his holdings in Westchester Co. and went to New Jersey. Enoch died young and unmarried in southern New Jersey. Joseph founded the Dutchess Co. family.

Of these families that of Joseph is most readily traced because he and several of his sons left wills.

Roger 2nd of Westchester died intestate but he and at least part of his family were recorded in a 1698 census.

Noah apparently died intestate but many of his descendants can be traced with probability, if not with certainty.

Elijah likewise has left no will and but one son can be identified with any certainty.

Elisha seems to vanish into the Western country but probably left son Benjamin and they may have been ancestors of the Loyalist Bartons of Sussex Co., N.J.

How did these five main limbs of the Roger Barton tree branch out?

Starting with this oldest son, Elisha, of Rockland Co., who had a son Benjamin, and probably others, a few miles to the southwest lies Sussex Co., N.J. where the important family of Colonel Joseph Barton and Benjamin Barton, the Loyalists, developed, who were probably descended from this Elisha. Still farther west, in northeast Pennsylvania, Northampton Co., was another early Barton settlement; the oldest Thomas, born about 1720, with sons Elisha, Roger and others. Frankly, no one has traced these lines accurately back to Elisha born about 1662.

Similarly for the line of Elijah, second son of Roger, born about 1664, we are reasonably sure that Elijah of Hempstead, L.I. (1710-1798) is his son or grand-

son, and this later Elijah had children John and Elijah, Margaret and Elizabeth, whose lines can be followed on Long Island.

Roger 2nd (1666-1715) of Eastchester, Westchester Co., died intestate, so all we would have would be the names of his Executors, "his oldest son Roger", and his wife, were it not that a census of Eastchester, taken in 1698, has been preserved which shows that he also had sons Elisha and Palmer and daughters Abigail and Bridget. As these children were very young in 1698, he probably had others.

Roger 3rd is almost certainly the founder of the Cortland township (Peekskill) family and who also died without leaving a will, while his brother, Elisha, was of Yonkers township with children Benjamin, Elisha, Edward, Deborah and Mary - the two sisters marrying the Valentines of Valentine's Hill near Yonkers.

The fourth brother, Noah, (born about 1668) was the most prominent of all. He became a Justice in Mile Square, near Yonkers, where he owned considerable land. He was one of the Commissioners chosen by New York State to treat with Connecticut Commissioners concerning the disputed boundary lands known as the Oblong. When a mature man, Noah decided that Perth Amboy, and not New York City, was to become the Metropolis, and sold all of his holdings in Westchester, invested in Perth Amboy and became impoverished. He died apparently near Cranbury, Middlesex Co., N.J. His will has not been found. He probably had sons Gilbert, Elisha, George, and others. Gilbert kept the nearby famous White Horse Tavern on the Trenton turnpike during the Revolution and his son, Lieutenant William, was with Sullivan's Expedition against the 5-Nation Indians and left an historically valuable diary of the campaign.

Elisha, probably is he who founded the Hunterdon Co., N.J. Barton family, building a fine brick colonial house; while George is the progenitor of those of Fulton and Bedford Cos., Pa.

Joseph (1672-1762), the youngest son of Roger, the Immigrant, migrated considerably in early life. He married his two wives in Jamaica, L.I. He lived in

Scarsdale, Westchester Co., from 1721-1731, then moved to Greenwich, Conn. where he remained another decade, going on to Filkentown (near the present Mabbittsville) Dutchess Co., in 1743. It is doubtful whether all of his children accompanied him to Dutchess Co. Lewis and Caleb certainly did and hundreds of their descendants have been located. Joseph's son Roger was of Litchfield Co., Conn., and later lived in Columbia Co., N.Y. But it is still pretty much of a mystery what became of Joseph's sons Benjamin, Elijah, William and Joseph. The families of his daughters, Millicent and Sarah have been traced but not that of Rachel. Joseph left a finely detailed will mentioning all of his children but alas not where they lived.

It will be evident from this sketch that there remain many interesting problems to be solved before we should attempt to set this history in type. Many of them can be solved. It merely requires co-operative effort of those of Roger Barton's descendants willing to contribute time or funds.

Read 3, Oct, 1937
at the Organization Meeting
of Roger Barton's Kinsmen,
Cold Spring, Putnam Co., N.Y.

ALV/RV

